



Mass Ave/Appleton Design Review Committee

05-27-21

Daniel Amstutz, Town of Arlington
Department of Planning & Community
Development

Remote Meeting and Ground Rules

- Remote meeting script
- Confirm committee members are here
- Please use “Raise Hand” function to comment
- Start with committee members before public comments
- Recorded Meeting



Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening of Remote Meeting, including Ground Rules
2. Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2021
3. Updates: Public Comments, Mass Ave/Appleton Temporary Lane Reconfiguration, and Follow-Up from Last Meeting
4. Review New Concepts from Green International and Build Consensus on Final Short-Term Design Considerations for the Area
5. Discuss Next Steps and Set Next Committee Meeting Dates
6. Adjourn



Goal of this Meeting

- Review new design concepts and information from Green International. If possible, come to consensus on which design concept to carry forward or modify as necessary.



Correspondence/Comments

- 7 comments received between 04-16-21 and 05-27-21
- Summary of themes:
 - Slow down left turns from Mass Ave to Appleton Street and slow down drivers in general
 - Continued concern of one-way on Appleton Place away from Mass Ave for abutters
 - Address safety and speed issues at Forest/Burton and Lowell as well (building collisions at Forest/Burton have occurred)
 - Potential impacts to other streets in the network due to changes at Mass Ave/Appleton (i.e., Richardson)
 - Improve cyclist safety



Follow Up from Last Meeting

- Met with Green International to discuss next steps
- One-on-one conversations with volunteer committee members to discuss issues in depth and gather additional ideas
- Temporary Lane Reconfiguration at Mass Ave/Appleton in the evenings of May 19-20



Temporary Lane Reconfiguration



Credit: Petru Sofio



Summary of Committee and Public Discussion from Last Meeting

- Reduce vehicle speed during left turning movements and in general through this intersection and adjacent intersections
- Reduce the number of conflicting vehicle movements by making Appleton Place one-way and prohibiting some left turn movements; if cannot prohibit the turn, slow it down
- Provide bike lane in addition to left turn lane if possible, minimizing parking impacts
- Make existing signal work better and increase driver compliance with red light



Decision Points

- Appleton Place one-way: which direction?
- Prohibiting certain turning movements
- Parking restrictions (Mass Ave)
- Bicycle accommodation
- Signalization
- Location of crosswalk on Mass Ave
- Mass Ave/Lowell St and Mass Ave/Forest St/Burton St
- Others??

... And Public Engagement on Impacts

(If planned for short-term implementation)

- Residents of Appleton Place (esp. Mass Ave to Burton)
- Businesses and residents of Mass Ave between Lowell St and Forest/Burton



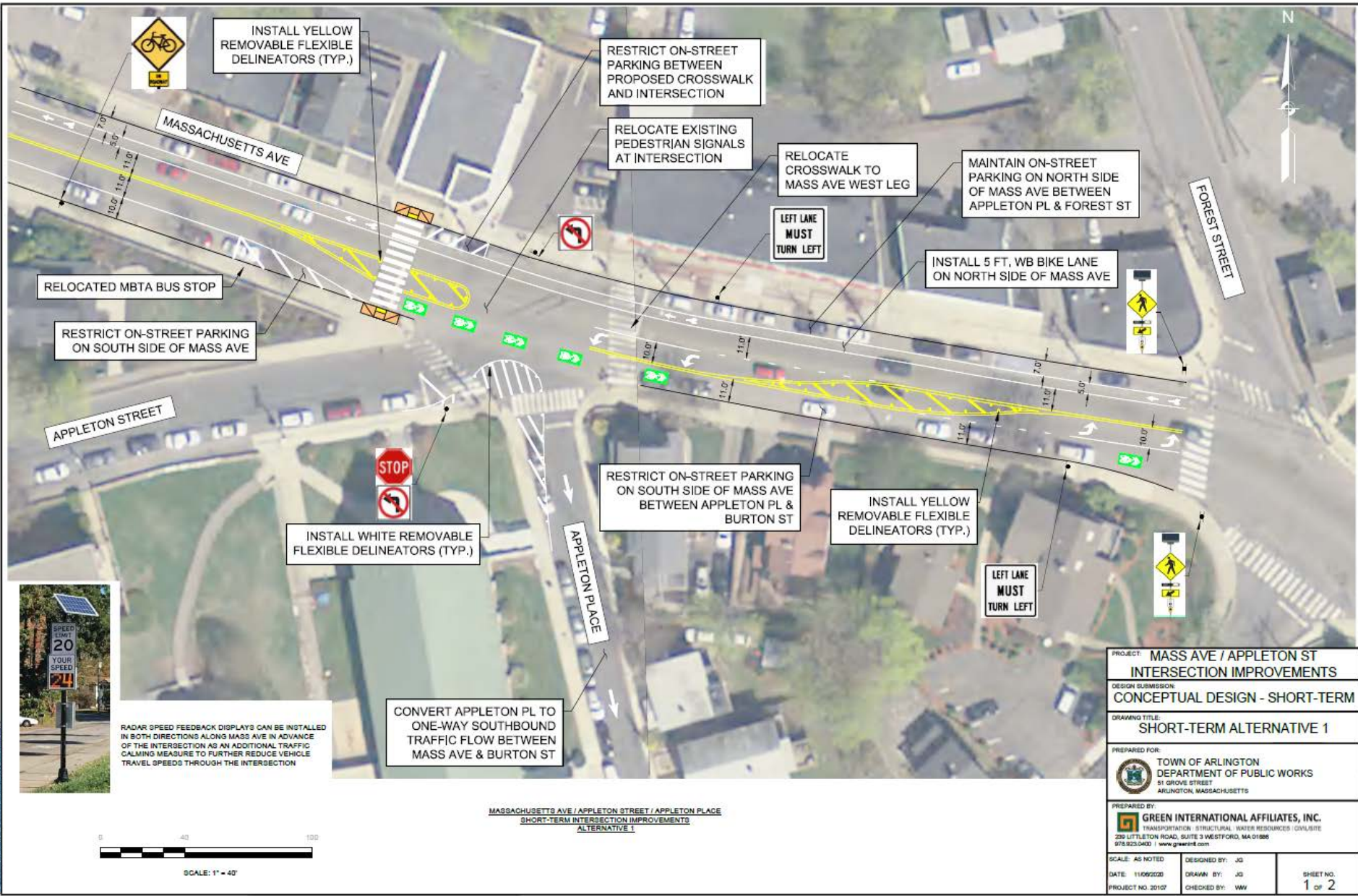
Updated Concepts from Green International

- Three concepts posted (revised from previous concepts)
 - Short Term Improvements Alternate 1
 - Short Term Improvements Alternate 1b
 - Short Term Improvements Alternate 2

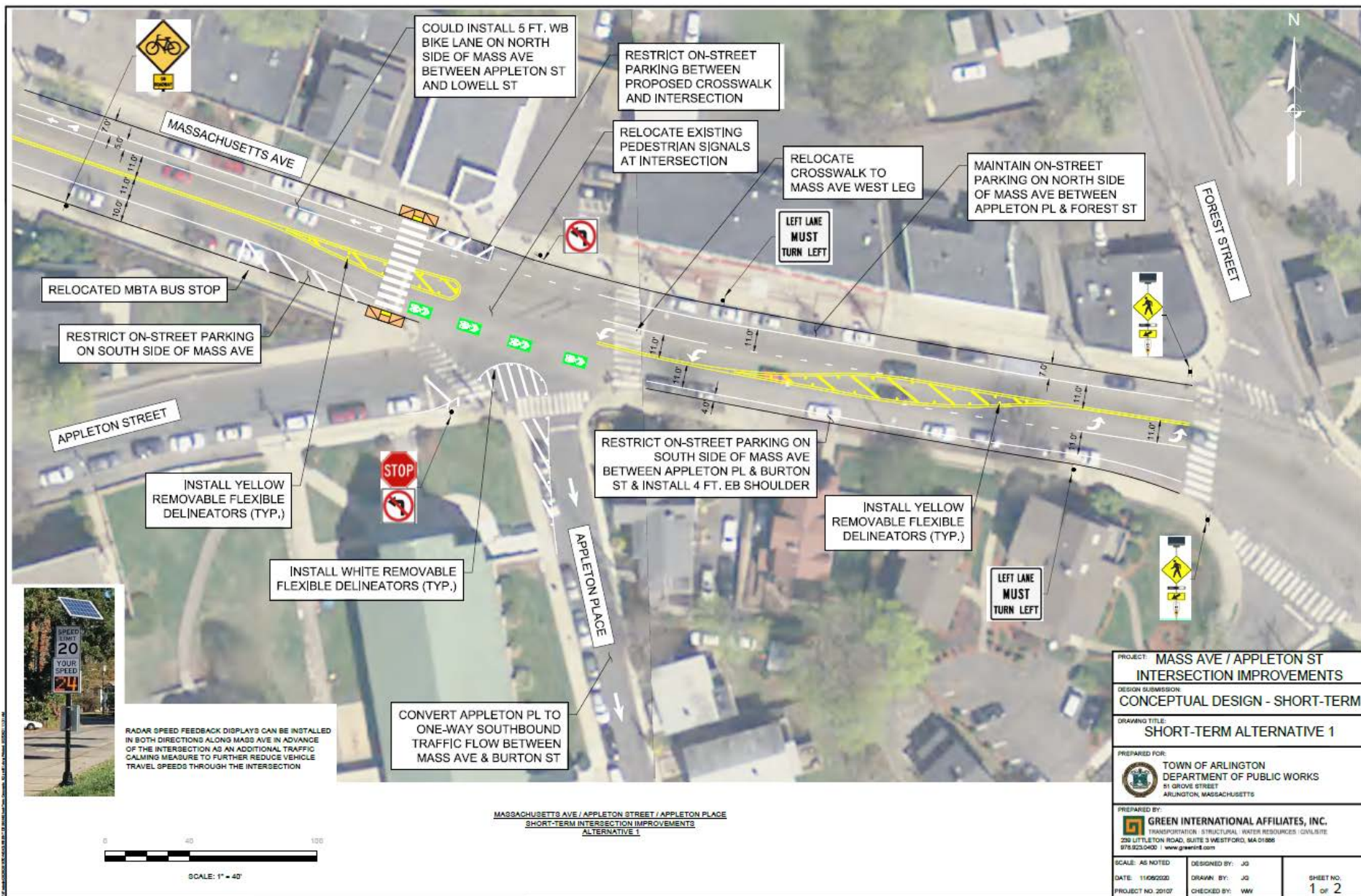
Also:

- Pros and cons of concepts
- Pros and cons of Appleton Place one-way
- Parking impacts from bike lanes





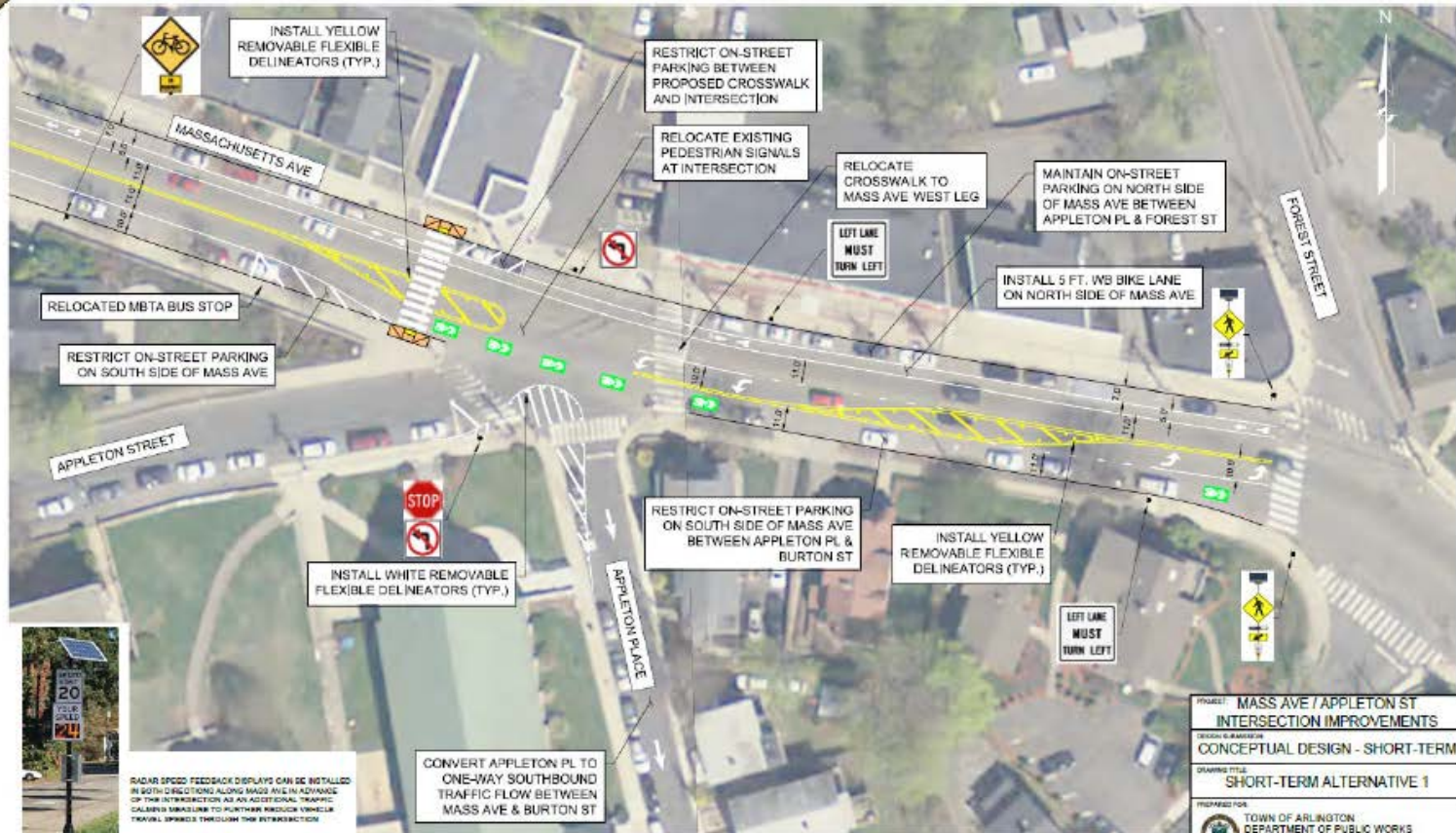
PROJECT: MASS AVE / APPLETON ST INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS	
DESIGN SUBMISSION: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - SHORT-TERM	
DRAWING TITLE: SHORT-TERM ALTERNATIVE 1	
PREPARED FOR: TOWN OF ARLINGTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 51 GROVE STREET ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS	
PREPARED BY: GREEN INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES, INC. TRANSPORTATION · STRUCTURAL · WATER RESOURCES · CIVIL/SITE 230 LITTLETON ROAD, SUITE 3 WESTFORD, MA 01886 978.923.0400 www.greenintl.com	
SCALE: AS NOTED	DESIGNED BY: JG
DATE: 11/06/2020	DRAWN BY: JG
PROJECT NO. 20107	CHECKED BY: WW
SHEET NO. 1 OF 2	



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Town of Arlington Massachusetts Avenue / Appleton Street Intersection Improvements

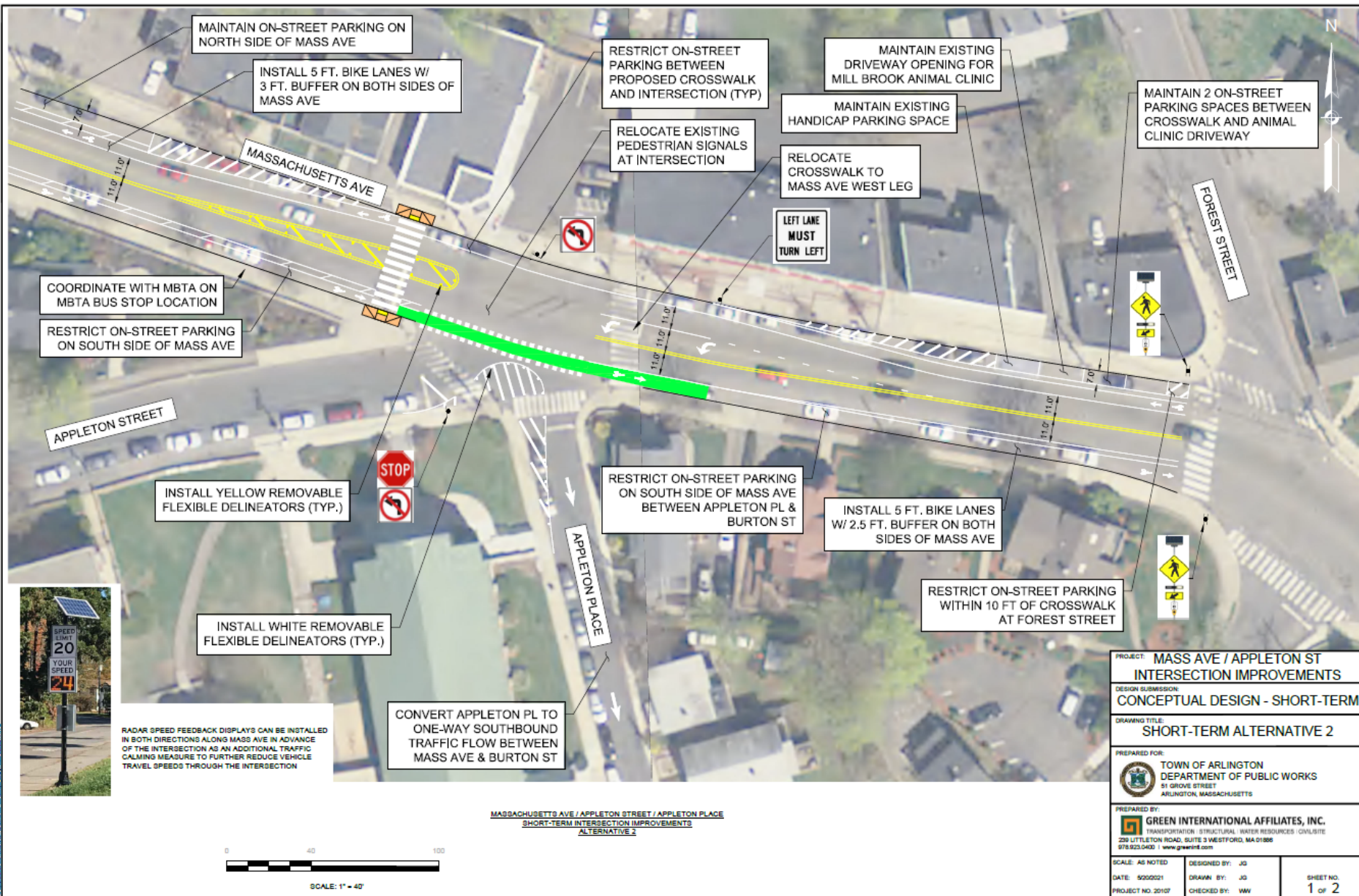




Pros

- Places bikes in center of EB travel lane in more visible location for WB left-turns
- Maintains on-street parking on north side
- Exclusive left-turn lanes at Appleton St and Forest St
- WB bike lane on Mass Ave
- Shorter ped. crossings
- Slower vehicle speeds for Mass Ave WB left-turns
- Tighter intersection, more defined turning movements
- Ped crossing improvements at Forest St

Cons

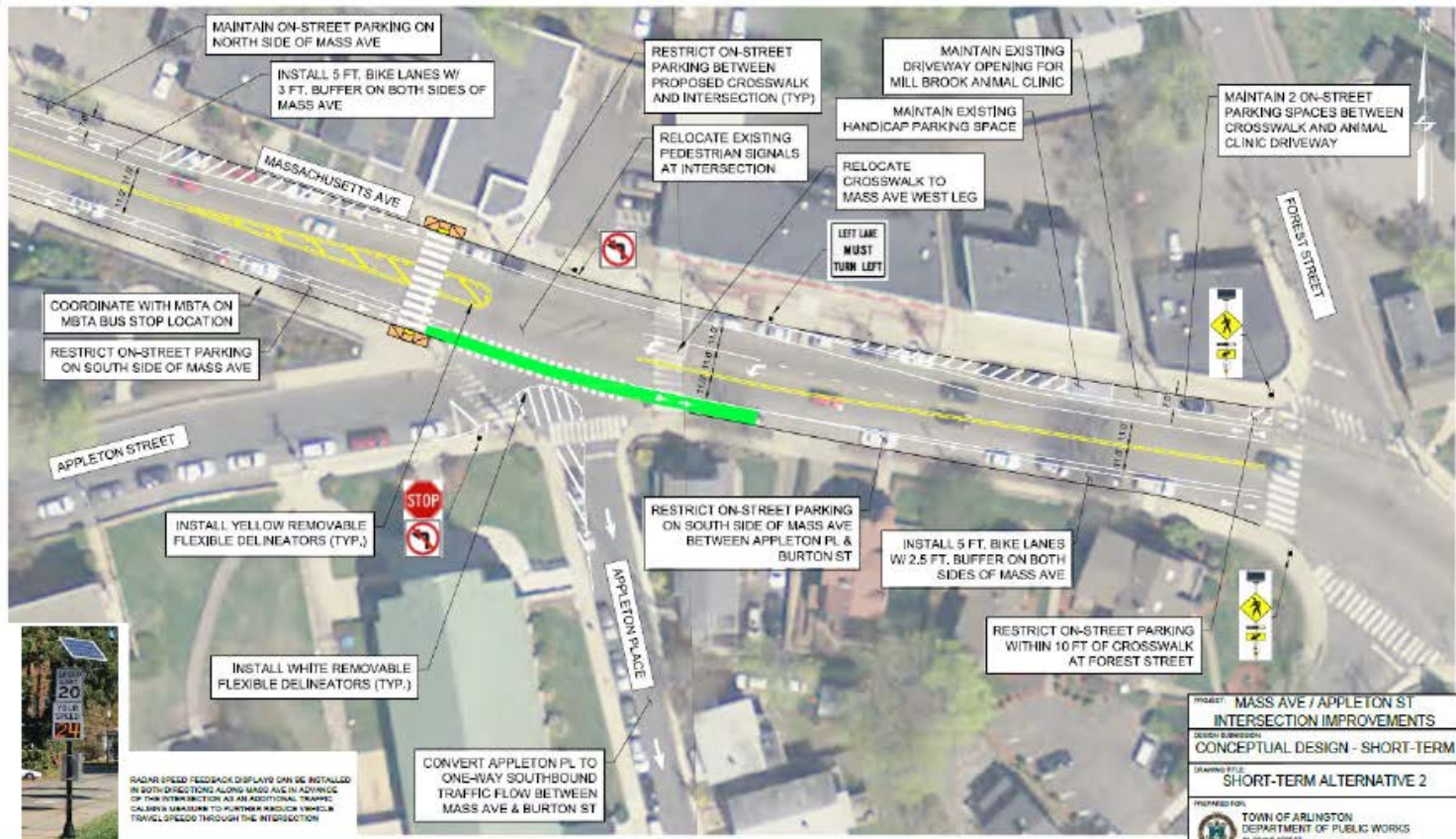
- No on-road space designated for EB bikes
- Restricts on-street parking on south side
- Impacts to MBTA bus stop west of Appleton St
- Solar glare still limits visibility of EB through vehicles and bicyclists for WB left-turns
- Conflict between WB bus stop and WB bike lane



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Town of Arlington Massachusetts Avenue / Appleton Street Intersection Improvements



Pros

- Separates vehicles and bikes on Mass Ave
- Partially fills existing gap in bike lanes on Mass Ave
- Exclusive left-turn lane at Appleton St
- High visibility EB bike crossing
- Shorter ped. crossings
- Slower vehicle speeds for Mass Ave WB left-turns
- Tighter intersection, more defined turning movements
- Ped crossing improvements at Forest St

Cons

- Restricts on-street parking on south side
- Impacts to on-street parking on north side
- Potential relocation of MBTA bus stop west of Appleton St
- Solar glare still limits visibility of EB through vehicles/bicyclists for WB left-turns
- Cannot provide left-turn lane at Forest St without eliminating on-street parking on north side



APPLETON PLACE – ONE-WAY TRAFFIC FLOW

One-Way Northbound		One-Way Southbound	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not relocate vehicles exiting Appleton Pl onto Mass Ave to Burton St where sight distance is a concern• Eliminates one potential conflict between WB left-turn and EB through vehicle• Eliminates one potential “right-hook” conflict between EB right-turn vehicle and EB through bicyclist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflicts still exist between traffic exiting Appleton Pl and traffic along Mass Ave• Conditions for exiting traffic will be more difficult after installing WB left-turn lane• Access to Church from Mass Ave is restricted• Difficulty accessing handicap parking space serving Church on west side of Appleton Pl	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintains access to Church from Mass Ave• Maintains convenient access to handicap parking space serving Church on west side of Appleton Pl• Eliminates conflicts within intersection between traffic exiting Appleton Pl and traffic along Mass Ave	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds vehicles to Burton St exiting onto Mass Ave where sight distance is a concern• Solar glare still limits visibility of EB through vehicles/bicyclists for WB left-turns• Potential “right-hook” conflict between EB right-turn vehicle and EB through bicyclist still exists in Short-Term Alternative 2 (bike lanes)



Town of Arlington

Massachusetts Avenue / Appleton Street Intersection Improvements

ON-STREET PARKING CONSIDERATIONS – BIKE LANES

North Side between Richardson Ave & Burton St/Forest St	South Side between Richardson Ave & Burton St/Forest St
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arlington Auto Brokers Used Car Dealer (limited off-street parking)• Leader Bank• Businesses at Locke Place (main entrances along sidewalk adjacent to on-street parking)• Mill Brook Animal Clinic (off-street parking in back of building)• Amy's Salon (off-street parking in back of building)• Brite Whites Laundromat (off-street parking in back of building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dunkin Donuts (off-street parking is provided)• Menotomy Court Apartments (off-street parking is provided)• The Children's Room (no off-street parking)• Various residential buildings

*** Implementing bike lanes on both sides of Mass Ave will result in restricting on-street parking on one side**

Next Steps & Committee Meeting Dates

- Next Steps:
 - Further refinement of concepts to come to final short-term concept
 - Public outreach and data collection in support of final concept
 - Understand costs, capacity and timeline for implementation
 - Recommendation to Select Board on short term-improvements
 - Town implements short-term improvements; Committee begins determining longer-term improvements and process
- Next meetings?
 - Must be in person after June 15 if state law remains the same
- Adjourn

